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XA-10290

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

ALI, Mohammed et al.

Intl. Appln. No.: PCT/GB2003/003903

Intl. Filing Date: 9 September 2003

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/527,167

For: CLAMPING APPARATUS FOR ADJUSTABLE STEERING COLUMN  
FOR A VEHICLE

\* \* \*

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a)Mail Stop PCT (DO/EO/US)  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the instant application be accepted for the U.S. National Stage pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a).

The first-named inventor, Mr. Mohammed ALI, has refused to join in this application. The pertinent facts of Mr. Ali's refusal are set forth in the accompanying Declaration in support of this Petition.

As required, Mr. Ali's last known address is set forth  
below:

Mr. Mohammad ALI  
Kingsbridge House  
Bridge End  
Woodstock Road  
Yarnton  
Kidlington  
Oxford OX5 1PH  
United Kingdom

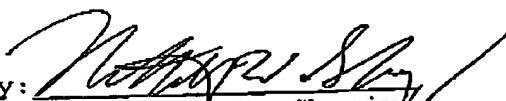
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to  
Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees that may be required by  
this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account.  
If any extension of time is required in connection with the  
filing of this paper and has not been separately requested,  
such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS/sjk

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.  
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500  
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833  
(703) 903-9000

March 6, 2006

By:   
Mitchell W. Shapiro  
Reg. No. 31,568

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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\* \* \*

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF  
PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.47(a)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Laurence Barton, hereby make the following:

Declaration:

1. I am an employee of NSK Steering Systems Europe Limited (hereinafter "NSK"), the Assignee of the instant U.S. National Stage Patent Application. I hold the position of Design and Development Manager, to which I was appointed approximately four years ago.

2. Mr. Mohammed Ali, the first-named inventor of the instant application, and of the underlying International Patent Application, No. PCT/GB2003/003903 filed September 9, 2003, is a former employee of NSK. I was Mr. Ali's manager. Mr. Ali left the employ of NSK around the end of June 2004. He was familiar with the content of the international application and, consequently, the content of the instant application for the U.S. National Stage.

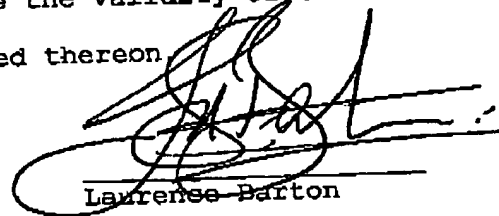
3. As Mr. Ali's former manager, it was my responsibility to seek his signature for the Declaration of the instant application. I endeavored to obtain Mr. Ali's signature over a period of approximately two to three weeks extending into mid-September 2005. Despite my best efforts, Mr. Ali refused to cooperate in this application.

4. During the aforementioned period, in repeated voicemails and text messages (more than half a dozen collectively), and in direct telephone discussions with Mr. Ali, I offered to deliver the application papers to him for signature. More particularly, I offered to deliver the application papers to him at a time and place of his convenience, including not only NSK's offices, but also Mr. Ali's home and his place of work. My final telephone discussion with Mr. Ali took place in mid-September 2005. At that time, Mr. Ali, knowing the content of the

application, refused my offer and stated to me that he would not sign the Declaration.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

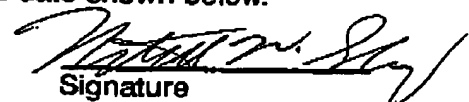
30. MARCH 2006  
Date

  
Laurence Barton

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March 6, 2006  
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Signature